



Attorney Docket No. WEYC116969

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
IN PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

my residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe that I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which patent is sought on the invention entitled ABSORBENT COMPOSITE HAVING IMPROVED SURFACE DRYNESS, the specification of which was filed on March 23, 2001, as United States Patent Application No. 09/815,933.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(c), of any foreign application(s) for patent listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed	Priority Claimed Yes/No
PCT/US97/22342	PCT	5/12/1997	Yes
PT/US99/26560	PCT	10/11/1999	Yes
PCT/US98/09682	PCT	12/5/1998	Yes

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(d), of any inventor's certificate listed below. I declare that, upon investigation, I am satisfied that to the best of my knowledge, when filing the application for the inventor's certificate I had the option to file an application for either a patent or an inventor's certificate as to the subject matter of the identified claim or claims forming the basis for the claim of priority: NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e), of any United States provisional applications listed below:

Provisional Applications:

Application No.	Filing Date
60/032,916	December 6, 1996
60/107,998	November 11, 1998
60/046,395	May 13, 1997
60/191,870	March 23, 2000

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120, of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States listed below:

Prior U.S. Application(s):

Application No.	Filing Date	Status
09/326,213	June 4, 1999	Pending
09/137,503	August 20, 1998	Pending
09/569,380	May 11, 2000	Pending
09/141,152	August 27, 1998	Pending

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Bruce E. O'Connor, Reg. No. 24,849; Lee E. Johnson, Reg. No. 22,946; Gary S. Kindness, Reg. No. 22,178; James W. Anable, Reg. No. 26,827; James R. Uhler, Reg. No. 25,096; Jerald E. Nagae, Reg. No. 29,418; Dennis K. Shelton, Reg. No. 26,997; Jeffrey M. Sakoi, Reg. No. 32,059; Ward Brown, Reg. No. 28,400; Robert J. Carlson, Reg. No. 35,472; Marcia S. Kelbon, Reg. No. 34,358; Rodney C. Tullett, Reg. No. 34,034; Daiva K. Tautvydas, Reg. No. 36,077; Mary L. Culic, Reg. No. 40,574; Julie C. VanDerZanden, Reg. No. 38,105; George E. Renzoni, Ph.D., Reg. No. 37,919; and Philip P. Mann, Reg. No. 30,960; and the firm of Christensen O'Connor Johnson Kindness<sup>PLLC</sup>. Address all telephone calls to George E. Renzoni, Ph.D. at telephone No. 206.695.1755.

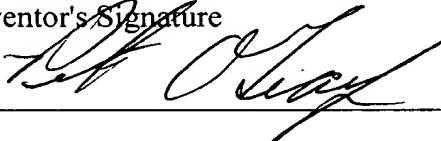
I hereby grant the following attorneys and/or agents an associate power of attorney with full power to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: John M. Crawford, Reg. No. 19,670; Keith D. Gehr, Reg. No. 24,407; Stanley D. Schwartz, Reg. No. 25,374; Teresa J. Wiant, Reg. No. 36,967; Paul W. Leuzzi, Reg. No. 29,556.

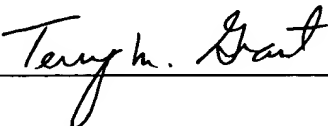
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I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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